JLA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GRANT MORRISON
HOWARD PORTER
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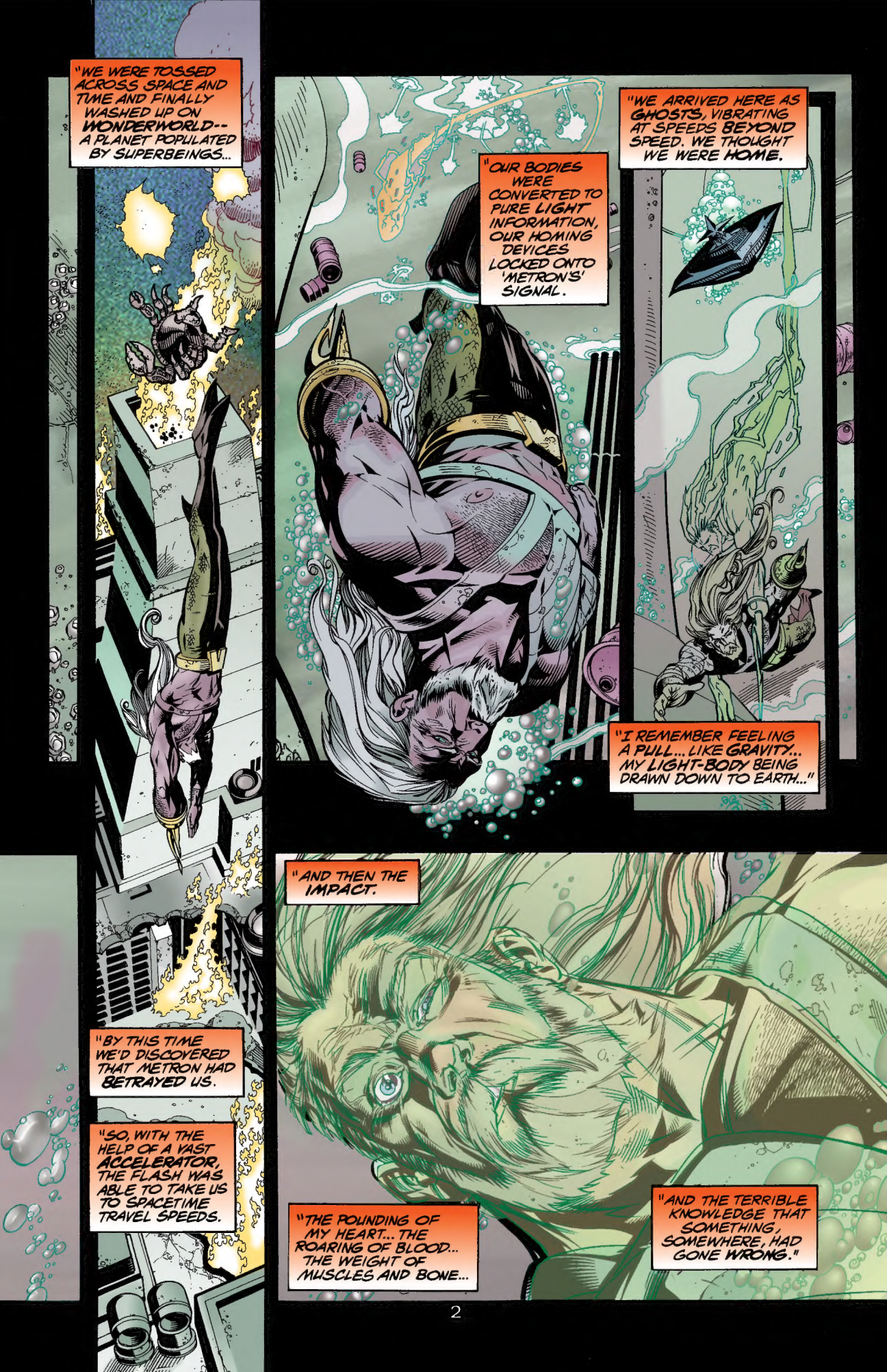
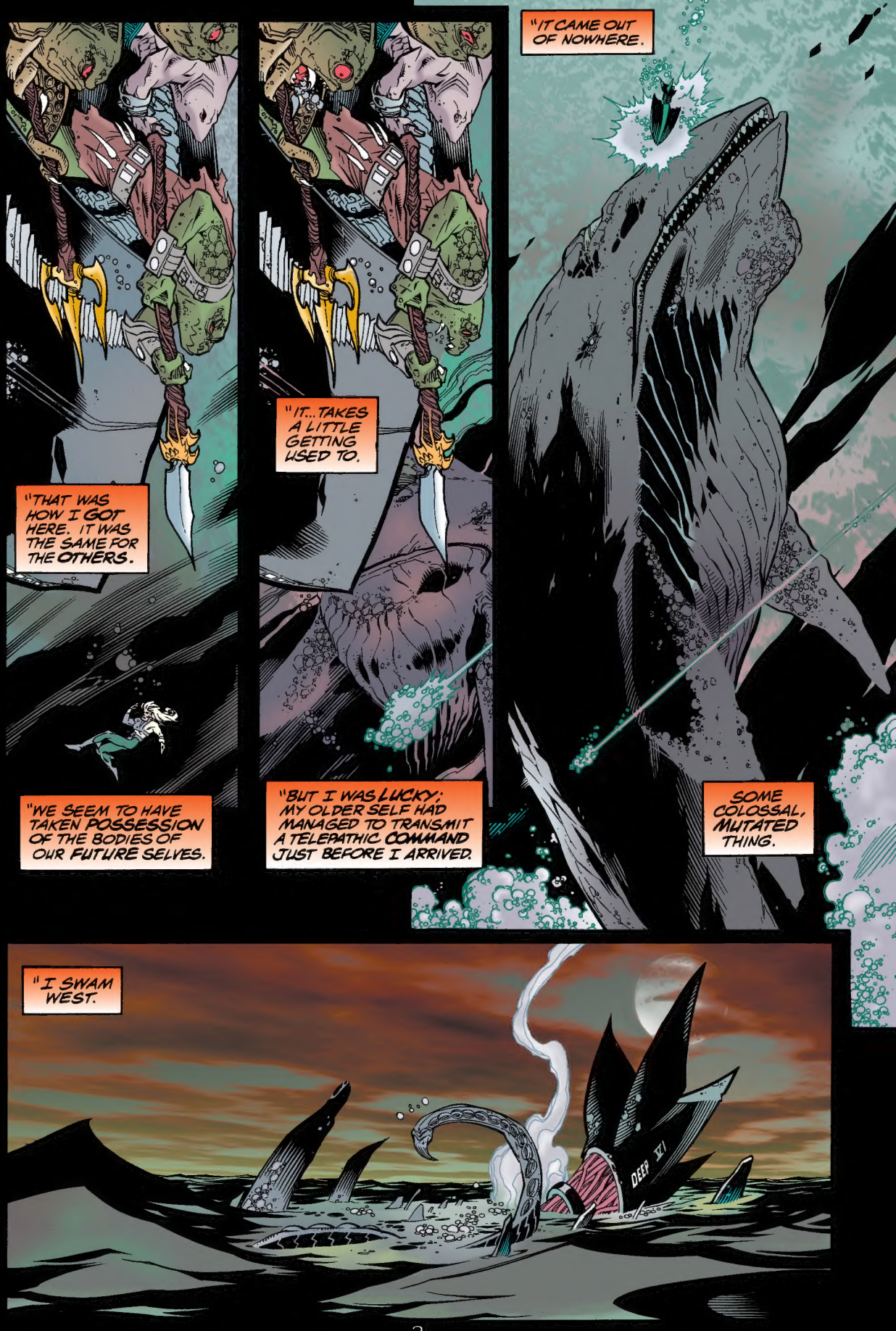
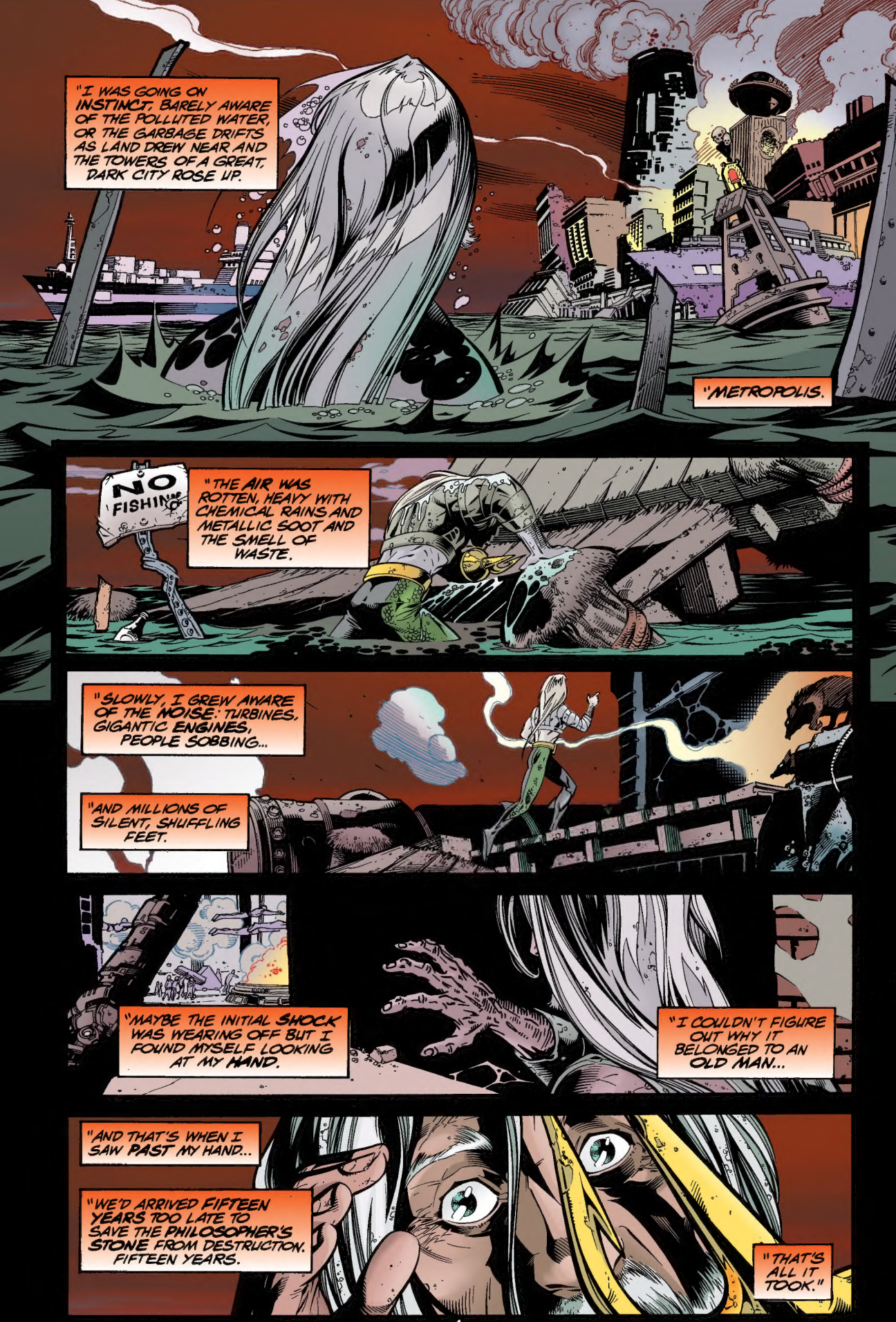
dccomics.com

FIFTEEN YEARS FROM NOW:
"HERE'S WHAT I'M SURE OF:
"THE JLA WAS LOCKED IN BATTLE WITH LEX LUTHOR'S INJUSTICE GANG BUT THE ODDS WERE ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS.
DIE! IN DARKSEID'S NAME!
"ENTER THE WILD CARD IN THE FORM OF METRON OF THE NEW GODS...OR SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE METRON.
"HE TRICKED FLASH, GREEN LANTERN AND ME INTO SEARCHING FOR THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, SOME KIND OF ULTIMATE POWER OBJECT WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS IN DANGER OF FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF DARKSEID."

CONVERSION BY WILDSTORM


"WE WERE TOSSED ACROSS SPACE AND TIME AND FINALLY WASHED UP ON WONDERWORLD-- A PLANET POPULATED BY SUPERBEINGS...
"OUR BODIES WERE CONVERTED TO PURE LIGHT INFORMATION, OUR HOMING DEVICES LOCKED ONTO 'METRON'S' SIGNAL.
"WE ARRIVED HERE AS GHOSTS, VIBRATING AT SPEEDS BEYOND SPEED. WE THOUGHT WE WERE HOME.
"I REMEMBER FEELING A PULL... LIKE GRAVITY... MY LIGHT-BODY BEING DRAWN DOWN TO EARTH..."
"BY THIS TIME WE'D DISCOVERED THAT METRON HAD BETRAYED US.
"SO, WITH THE HELP OF A VAST ACCELERATOR, THE FLASH WAS ABLE TO TAKE US TO SPACETIME TRAVEL SPEEDS.
"AND THEN THE IMPACT.
"THE POUNDING OF MY HEART... THE ROARING OF BLOOD... THE WEIGHT OF MUSCLES AND BONE...
"AND THE TERRIBLE KNOWLEDGE THAT SOMETHING, SOMEWHERE, HAD GONE WRONG."


"IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
SOME COLOSSAL, MUTATED THING.
"IT...TAKES A LITTLE GETTING USED TO.
"BUT I WAS LUCKY; MY OLDER SELF HAD MANAGED TO TRANSMIT A TELEPATHIC COMMAND JUST BEFORE I ARRIVED.
"THAT WAS HOW I GOT HERE. IT WAS THE SAME FOR THE OTHERS.
"WE SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE BODIES OF OUR FUTURE SELVES.
"I SWAM WEST.
DEEP XI


"I WAS GOING ON INSTINCT, BARELY AWARE OF THE POLLUTED WATER, OR THE GARBAGE DRIFTS AS LAND DREW NEAR AND THE TOWERS OF A GREAT, DARK CITY ROSE UP.
"METROPOLIS.
NO FISHING
"THE AIR WAS ROTTEN, HEAVY WITH CHEMICAL RAINS AND METALLIC SOOT AND THE SMELL OF WASTE.
"SLOWLY, I GREW AWARE OF THE NOISE: TURBINES, GIGANTIC ENGINES, PEOPLE SOBBING...
"AND MILLIONS OF SILENT, SHUFFLING FEET.
"MAYBE THE INITIAL SHOCK WAS WEARING OFF BUT I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING AT MY HAND.
"I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY IT BELONGED TO AN OLD MAN...
"AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW PAST MY HAND...
"WE'D ARRIVED FIFTEEN YEARS TOO LATE TO SAVE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE FROM DESTRUCTION. FIFTEEN YEARS.
"THAT'S ALL IT TOOK."

ROCK OF AGES
PART FOUR

WASTELAND

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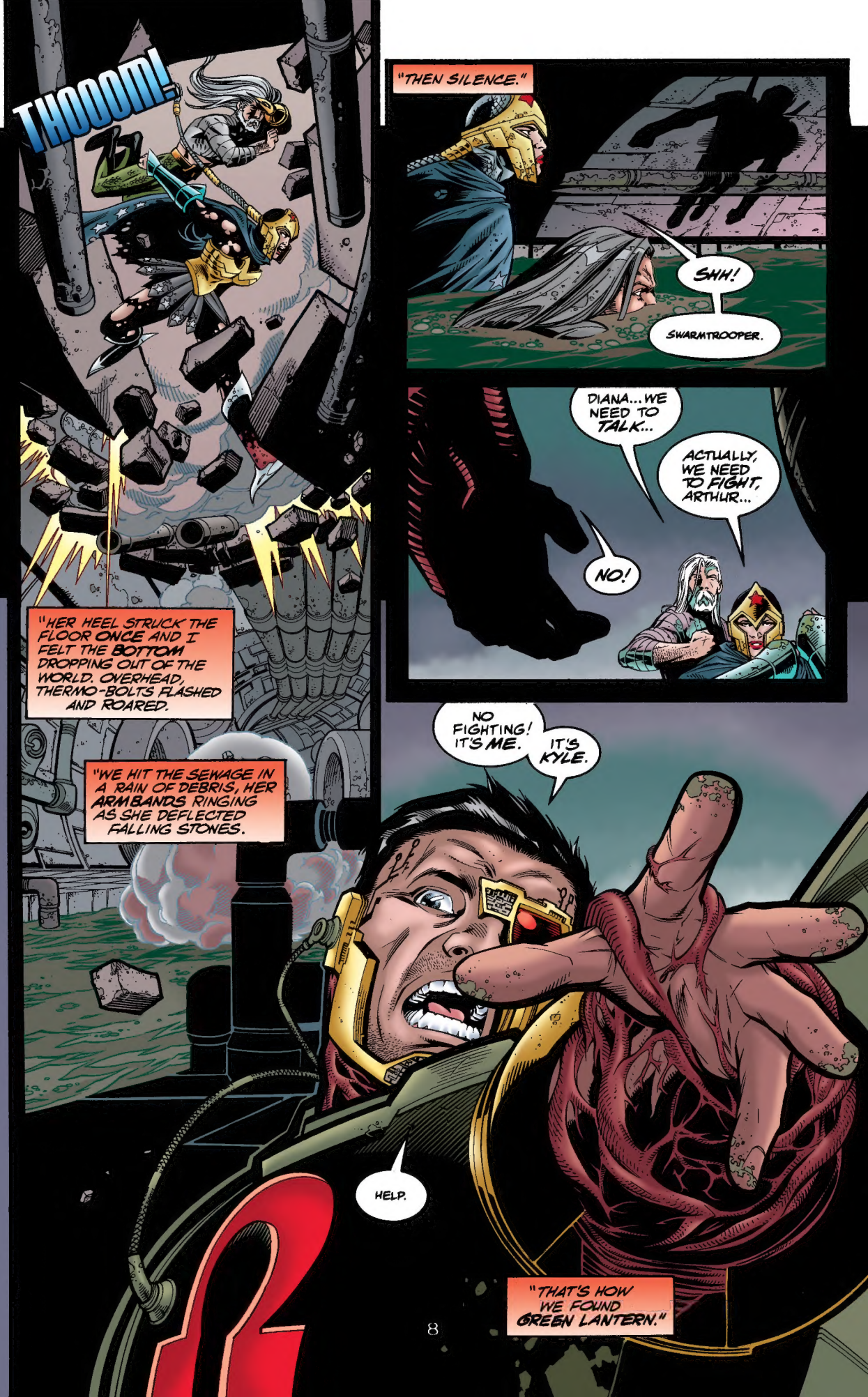
KUH-WHOOM!
YAAAAA!
?
DIANA? IS THAT YOU?
YOU'RE ALIVE?
KRAAANG
THANKS FOR NOTICING.
YOU COULD HAVE PICKED A QUIETER PLACE TO MEET, ARTHUR.

A SWARMTROOPER WENT ROGUE AND STARTED ATTACKING THE OTHERS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
LISTEN, I'M NOT... I DON'T...
:UNNF:
...SOMETHING STRANGE JUST HAPPENED TO ME...
EXPLAIN WHEN WE'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.
WONDER WOMAN, LOOK, I...
THIS WALL?
KROOOM!
DAMN!
DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA...
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU ALIVE!
HERA GRANT ME THE STRENGTH TO DIE IN BATTLE...
NO, WAIT...
I CAN FEEL FLOWING WATER, FORTY-SEVEN FEET DIRECTLY BELOW. CAN YOU...


THOOOM!
"HER HEEL STRUCK THE FLOOR ONCE AND I FELT THE BOTTOM DROPPING OUT OF THE WORLD. OVERHEAD, THERMO-BOLTS FLASHED AND ROARED.
"WE HIT THE SEWAGE IN A RAIN OF DEBRIS, HER ARMBANDS RINGING AS SHE DEFLECTED FALLING STONES.
"THEN SILENCE."
SHH!
SWARMTROOPER.
DIANA... WE NEED TO TALK...
ACTUALLY, WE NEED TO FIGHT, ARTHUR...
NO!
NO FIGHTING! IT'S ME.
IT'S KYLE.
HELP.
"THAT'S HOW WE FOUND GREEN LANTERN."

HE'D ARRIVED IN A VACANT MIND.
BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL, HE'D JAMMED THE ANTI-LIFE SIGNAL THAT HAD TURNED HIS FUTURE SELF INTO ONE OF DARKSEID'S ZOMBIE-TROOPS.
AS FOR THE FLASH...
"WALLY HAD IMPACTED WITH HIS FUTURE SELF IN A WORKER'S DORM ON THE RIM OF THE KEYSTONE GHETTO FIREPIT CONSTRUCTION SITE.
?
DARKSEID IS
"HE SEEMED SHELLSHOCKED, PARALYZED.
NO, THIS IS TERRIBLE! THIS IS WORSE THAN TERRIBLE!
LOOK AT THIS BODY! I'M SICK, I'M OUT OF SHAPE AND... AND I CAN'T FEEL THE SPEED FORCE. IT'S LIKE A MENTAL BLOCK.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING? I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN US BACK AND I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE!
I CAN BARELY WALK, AQUAMAN.
"THAT'S WHERE WE STAND."

JLA BUNKER, DETROIT.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'VE GATHERED YOU PEOPLE HERE, THE LAST REMAINING SUPERHEROES.

I THINK WE CAN STILL STOP THIS BUT WE NEED THE JLA! WE NEED YOU TO HELP US!

TELL ME THERE'S A WAY!

THE JLA? NO POWER RING, NO SUPERSPEED, A COUPLE OF EX-TEEN TITANS, A REPROGRAMMED ANDROID VILLAIN...

OHW!

THE WORD "JUSTICE" WAS WIPED FROM THE DICTIONARY A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER WE DESTROYED THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE TO KEEP IT OUT OF LUTHOR'S HANDS, REMEMBER?

NO OFFENSE, AMAZO...

NONE TAKEN.

THE GODS CAME, AQUAMAN.

THEY OBLITERATED US.

THERE ARE NO HEROES ANYMORE. I'M JUST RAY PALMER, A GUERRILLA FIGHTER IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

I WAS A SCIENTIST AND SCIENCE LOST OUT TO... RELIGION.

THEY KILLED SUPERMAN...

"THEY ERASED HIS WIFE'S MIND. TURNED HER INTO A SWARMTROOPER ASSAULT DRONE.

"HE BURNED OUT HER NERVOUS SYSTEM, IT WAS MERCY.

"BUT HE'D VOWED NEVER TO TAKE A LIFE, SO AFTER SHE WAS BURIED, HE... TORE OPEN HIS CONTAINMENT SUIT..."

SUPERMAN IS... DEAD?

AND BATMAN?

DESAAD GOT HIM. EIGHT YEARS AGO. SAME TIME THEY KILLED MY PREDECESSOR

THE REST OF US WERE TAKEN TO THE MOON AND... PROCESSED.

OKAY? SO WE GET BACK FIFTEEN YEARS AND STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING, RIGHT? THIS IS ONLY A POSSIBLE FUTURE.

WE JUST HAVE TO SAVE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE--

YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT, KYLE. WE WERE BOTH THERE, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

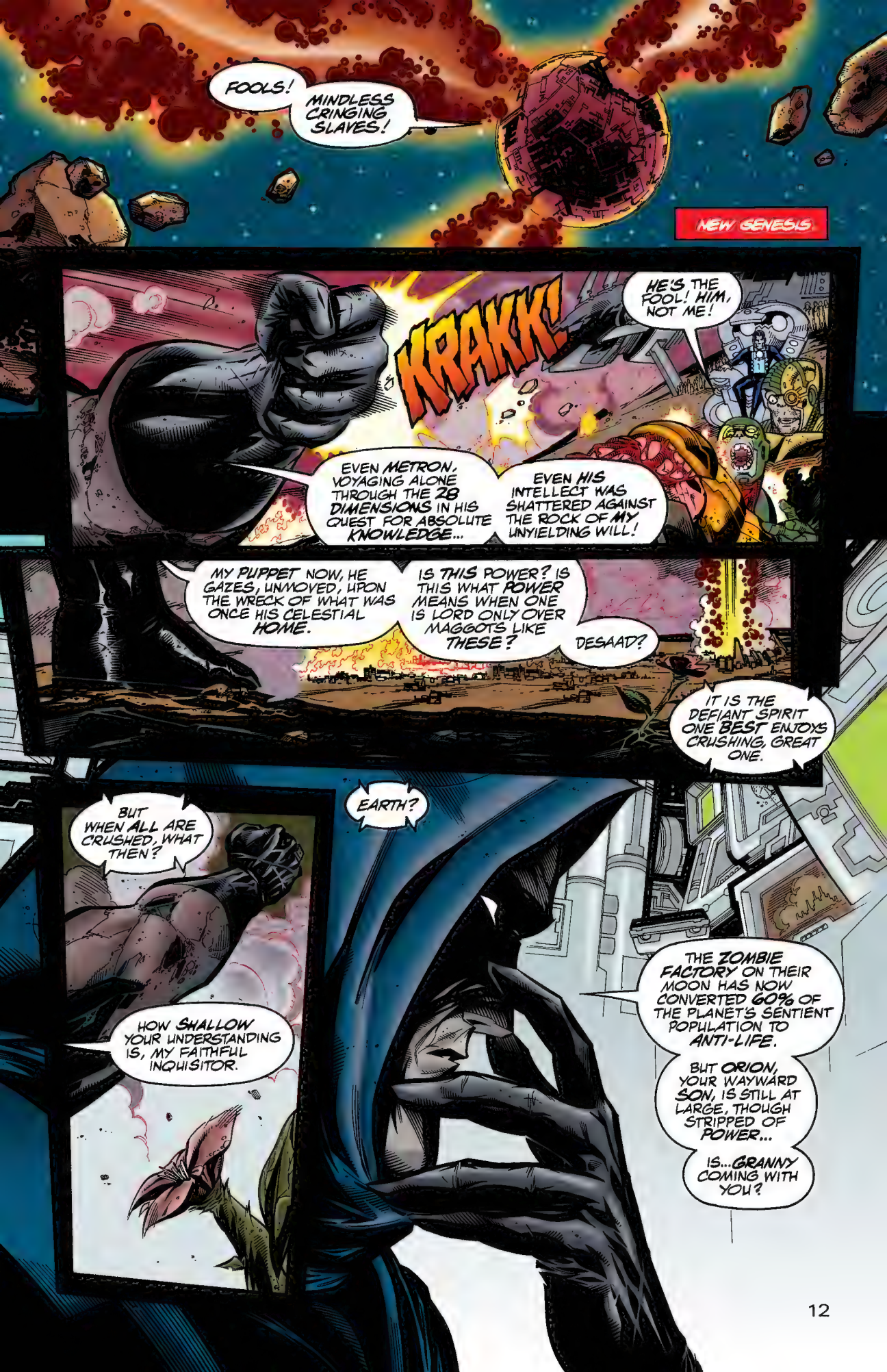
TELL US SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW.

I'M TELLING YOU, GREEN ARROW, THAT THERE MAY BE JUST A SLENDER CHANCE OF PREVENTING THIS NIGHTMARE FROM OCCURRING.

WE NEED APOKOLIPS TIME TECHNOLOGY. WE NEED IT NOW.

I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER YOU...

BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I COULD TRY.

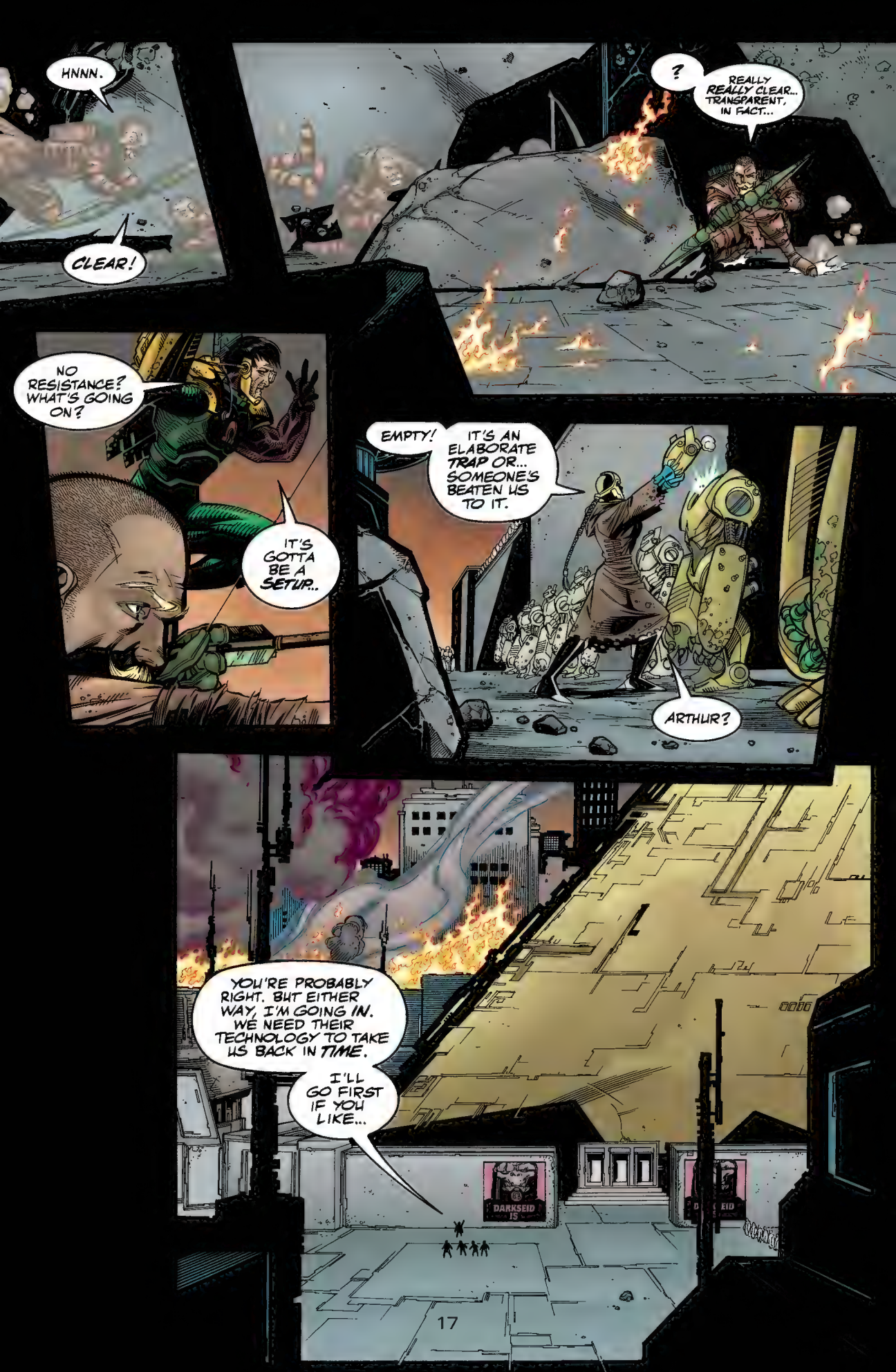

FOOLS!
MINDLESS CRINGING SLAVES!
NEW GENESIS
KRAKK!
HE'S THE FOOL! HIM, NOT ME!
EVEN METRON, VOYAGING ALONE THROUGH THE 28 DIMENSIONS IN HIS QUEST FOR ABSOLUTE KNOWLEDGE...
EVEN HIS INTELLECT WAS SHATTERED AGAINST THE ROCK OF MY UNYIELDING WILL!
MY PUPPET NOW, HE GAZES, UNMOVED, UPON THE WRECK OF WHAT WAS ONCE HIS CELESTIAL HOME.
IS THIS POWER? IS THIS WHAT POWER MEANS WHEN ONE IS LORD ONLY OVER MAGGOTS LIKE THESE?
DESAAD?
IT IS THE DEFIANT SPIRIT ONE BEST ENJOYS CRUSHING, GREAT ONE.
BUT WHEN ALL ARE CRUSHED, WHAT THEN?
EARTH?
HOW SHALLOW YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS, MY FAITHFUL INQUISITOR.
THE ZOMBIE FACTORY ON THEIR MOON HAS NOW CONVERTED 60% OF THE PLANET'S SENTIENT POPULATION TO ANTI-LIFE.
BUT ORION, YOUR WAYWARD SON, IS STILL AT LARGE, THOUGH STRIPPED OF POWER...
IS...GRANNY COMING WITH YOU?

ORION-DOG OF WAR-GOD NO MORE-ALL IS RUIN
OF COURSE.
I REMEMBER WATCHING OUR DEAR GRANNY GOODNESS INVADING THE CORE SOFTDRIVE OF NEW GENESIS, TRANSFORMING THEIR ALL-GIVING MOTHER BOX INTO THIS...OUR PITILESS GRANDMOTHER BOX.
AWE-INSPIRING.
"BUT PERHAPS HE RELIES TOO MUCH ON HER MEANINGLESS 'PROPHECIES'..." THAT'S WHAT SOME SAY... UNDER TORTURE, GREAT ONE.
"PERHAPS HE HEARS ONLY WHAT APPEALS TO HIS VANITY," THEY SAY...
VANITY?
NEW GENESIS IS A STINKING COSMIC SEWER! I HAVE FOULED PARADISE BEYOND REPAIR AND BROKEN IN THE MIRE THE SHINING CITIES OF THE GODS! I HAVE WON!.
IS THIS VANITY?
THEN I WILL REMAKE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IN THE IMAGE OF MY SOUL, DESAAD.
AND WHEN AT LAST I TURN TO LOOK UPON THE ETERNAL DESOLATION I HAVE WROUGHT...
I WILL SEE DARKSEID, AS IN A MIRROR...
AND KNOW WHAT FEAR IS.
HAHAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHA
OUR DIALOGUES ARE ALWAYS... INSTRUCTIVE, GREAT DARKSEID.
I GO NOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR GLORIOUS RETURN.
"DESAAD, THE GOD OF TORTURE, THE ULTIMATE SADIST... DARKSEID GAVE HIM LAS VEGAS AS HIS PLAYGROUND.
"AERO-VANS AIRLIFT THE VICTIMS HERE IN THE THOUSANDS.
"NO ONE WHO GOES IN EVER COMES OUT."
WE'LL NEED ALL THE LUCK YOU'VE BROUGHT, ARTHUR.
OKAY. I JUST MODEMED THE ATOM INTO THEIR SYSTEM.
WELL DONE, ARGENT. KYLE... THE STAGE IS YOURS.
SWARMTROOPER 000830 WITH HUMAN TRANSIENT BIOMASS FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY PROCESSING!

SECURITY BREACH!
ARGENT?... CAN YOU HEAR ME? THERE'S A LOT OF DISTORTION... IF IT'S ANYTHING LIKE THE LAST TIME, I'VE PROBABLY BEEN DETECTED ALREADY...
SO... I'M GOING TO TRY THE NEW MANUEVER... HOPE MY SIZE-CIRCUITRY CAN TAKE THE STRAIN...
OOOEEEE
TRACKING INVASIVE MICROSCOPIC ENTITY.
RELEASING NANOVIRUS HUNTER/KILLER SWARM INTO THE ELECTRON STREAM.
TARGET INVADING ENTITY!
ERADA! ENTI
SUIT RADAR'S PICKING UP NANOS... WOHH! THEY'RE FLICKERING IN FAST...
SILENT RUNNING... I'M SCALING DOWN TO QUANTUM SIZE...
IF THIS WORKS, I SHOULD BE TOO INDETERMINATE TO REGISTER ON THEIR SENSORS...
PLUS, I CAN HIDE IN THEIR ATOMIC STRUCTURE AND RIDE 'EM ALL THE WAY BACK TO DESAAD'S HARDWARE...

HE'S IN.
WHY'S NOTHING HAPPENING?
SHOULDN'T THEY BE OPENING THE GATES OR FRYING US WITH RAYGUNS BY NOW?
SOMETHING SMELLS.
PLAN B.
MAN, I WISH I HAD MY RING!
ZZZZZZZOM!
SHRRRAAA
KOOM!
I SEE.
SUDDENLY IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION.
WE'RE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, DIANA; WE DON'T DO SUICIDE MISSIONS.
FAN OUT.


HNNN.
CLEAR!
?
REALLY REALLY CLEAR... TRANSPARENT, IN FACT...
NO RESISTANCE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S GOTTA BE A SETUP..
EMPTY!
IT'S AN ELABORATE TRAP OR... SOMEONE'S BEATEN US TO IT.
ARTHUR?
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. BUT EITHER WAY, I'M GOING IN. WE NEED THEIR TECHNOLOGY TO TAKE US BACK IN TIME.
I'LL GO FIRST IF YOU LIKE...
DARKSEID IS

KKRRENCH!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
DESAAD!
TURN AROUND! SLOWLY...
RAY? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU...
HE'S WITH ME.
EIGHT YEARS... FOUR OF THEM IN DESAAD'S PSYCHO-FUGE, EXPERIENCING ALL THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL PAIN OF HIS VICTIMS... IT ENDED TWO MONTHS AGO.
BATTLE OF WITS.
I WON.
HH.

THAT VOICE-- BATMAN?
I'M...GLAD TO SEE YOU. I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE SO MANY OF US LEFT.
THIS... STORY THE ATOM WAS TELLING ME...
IT'S TRUE.
HE'S FROM THE PAST. HE LOOKS LIKE ARTHUR BUT HIS MIND ISN'T ARTHUR'S.
HIS MEMORIES BELONG TO THE AQUAMAN OF FIFTEEN YEARS PAST.
SO WHAT ELSE CAN GO RIGHT?
BATMAN, SLOW DOWN. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TO HELL...
HE'S COMING BACK.
HE'S COMING TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.
HE WANTS TO BUILD A GLOBAL CONCENTRATION CAMP.
THAT'S J'ONN'S HARNESS, HARD TO KILL A SHAPESHIFTER WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF TORTURING HIM... DESAAD PUT HIM IN A PARTICLE ACCELERATOR. SMASHED EVERY ATOM IN HIS BODY, ONE BY ONE.
THE ENERGY LIT VEGAS FOR A YEAR.
NO LANGUAGE ON THIS PLANET HAS A WORD FOR THE... IMMENSITY OF THE EVIL WE'RE UP AGAINST.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS...
DARKSEID MUST BE STOPPED.

LET ME FINISH TELLING YOU ABOUT DESAAD.
I... PERSUADED HIM TO DOWNLOAD HIS MIND INTO THAT SOFTWARE CUBE. NOW HE'S PROGRAMMABLE. POETIC JUSTICE.
JEEZ, RAY. HE'S SHAKING... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
USING HIM, I'VE MADE... CONTACT WITH DARKSEID HIMSELF.
HIS THINKING IS... TERRIFYING.
THIS PLACE IS SICK! I FEEL LIKE A FREAK! WE GOTTA GET TO THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE!
THESE LIGHT-BODIES ARE SLOWING DOWN. WE'RE GONNA BE TRAPPED HERE SOON, AQUAMAN, AND I DON'T LIKE IT...
WE NEED METRON'S MOBIUS CHAIR!
WHEN IS DARKSEID LIKELY TO REACH EARTH?
TIME AND DISTANCE DON'T COME INTO IT, AQUAMAN. DARKSEID HAS BOOM TUBE TECHNOLOGY.
HE'S HERE NOW.
BUT I SUGGEST WE ATTACK THE MOON FIRST.

METROPOLIS:
FIRST THE SUDDEN DROP IN AIR PRESSURE. DOGS BEGIN TO HOWL, THE FEW REMAINING CHILDREN CRY, THE FAITHFUL TURN DEAD EYES TO THE HEAVENS.
NEXT, THE HUSH THAT SEEMS TO LAST FOREVER...
THEN THE SOUND OF THE END OF THE WORLD.
BOOM
AND THEN DARKSEID.
FATHER...
ON YOUR KNEES FOR THE MASTER!
THE HOUR HAS COME! HE HAS COME!
WHO IS BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL? WHO IS THE PROPHET OF ANTI-LIFE?
WHO IS THE ROCK AND THE CHAIN AND THE LIGHTNING?
ALL POWERFUL! ALL UNFORGIVING! ALL CONQUERING!
WHO IS YOUR NEW GOD NOW AND FOREVER?

KUH-BOOM!
DARKSEID IS.
TO BE CONTINUED

" [A] comic legend."
– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

"[Grant Morrison is] comics's high shaman."
– WASHINGTON POST

"[Grant Morrison] is probably my favorite writer. That guy has more ideas in his pinky than most people do in a lifetime."
– GERARD WAY
from MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

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VOL. 4: STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
VOL. 5: JUSTICE FOR ALL
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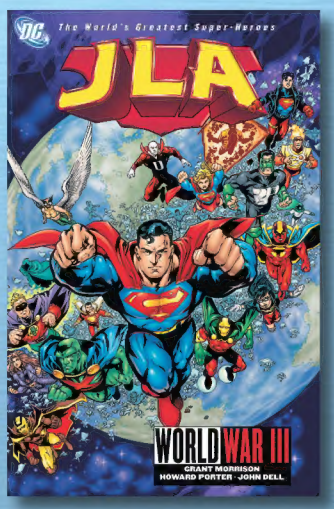
JLA VOL. 2:
AMERICAN DREAMS

JLA VOL. 4:
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

JLA VOL. 6:
WORLD WAR III



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